

Essington, PA – Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA) joined the Ridley Park Prayer Breakfast Committee for an early worship service on September 15. The committee, co-chaired by Father Douglas Thomson of Christ Church and Monsignor George Mazzotta of St. Madeleine's Church, held this service at the Ramada Inn to celebrate public service and to pray for peace on earth. — During this service, Representative Sestak delivered a few words, followed by a short prayer for our nation's servicemen and women. Joe spoke about an inspiring painting in the pentagon which displayed a young serviceman kneeling in a church with his family, clearly before for his deployment overseas.

"In Isaiah 6:8, when God asked Isaiah, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' Isaiah replied, 'Here am I, Lord, send me'," said Congressman Sestak, "We are fortunate to have communities across America who raise their children with the ideals, which lead them to say, 'Here am I, send me.' Let's listen to the the greatest prayer of all...a moment of silence for our nation's servicemen and women."

With local church and political leaders in attendance, the service opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, and also involved participation by other local and state elected officials. The keynote speaker Mr. William A. Schambra, Director of the Hudson Institute's Bradley Center for Philanthropy and Civic Renewal. Music was provided by Shauna Hitchens, who sang "Let There be Peace on Earth" and "God Bless America."

"I was honored to attend this beautiful service," said Congressman Sestak. "I am proud of my country and my constituents, and I know that they join me in my prayers for our servicemen and women."

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.